REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 24-31 have been canceled. Thus, with the entry of this amendment, claims 17-23 will be active in this case.

Claims 18, 19 and 22 to 23 have been amended to put these claims in better condition for allowance. Language added to claim 23 can be found, for example, in claim 18 as filed.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application. A first office action on the merits is awaited.

Please direct all correspondence to the undersigned attorney or agent at the address indicated below.

Date:

Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe LLP

Decembe 10 2003

1666 K Street, N.W., Suite 300 Washington, D.C. 20006-4004

Telephone:

(202) 912-2000

Facsimile:

(202) 912-2020

Respectfully submitted,

Paul M. Booth

Attorney for Applicant

Reg. No.: 40,244

Customer No. 26633